

# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012 (213) 974-1101 http://ceo.lacounty.gov

> Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY Third District

DON KNABE Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH Fifth District

July 25, 2013

To:

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman

Supervisor Gloria Molina Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:

William T Fujioka

Chief Executive Officer

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROVIDE NOTIFICATION TO VICTIMS WHEN SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR CONDITIONAL RELEASE (RELATED TO ITEM NO. 52-B, BOARD MEETING OF JULY 9, 2013)

On July 9, 2013, the Board adopted a motion by Supervisor Antonovich directing the Chief Executive Office to review and report back to the Board on legislation that would provide notification to victims when sexually violent predators are being considered for conditional release and to review the penalties of these types of crimes.

#### **Existing Law**

The Sexually Violent Predator Act (SVPA), Chapters 762 and 763, Statutes of 1995, was passed by the Legislature in 1995 and became effective on January 1, 1996. The SVPA authorizes the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to evaluate whether certain inmates should be classified as a Sexually Violent Predator (SVP), which is defined as an individual who has been convicted of a sexually violent offense against one or more victims and who has a diagnosed mental disorder that makes the person a danger to the health and safety of others in that it is likely that he or she will continue to engage in sexually violent criminal behavior.

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The Sexually Violent Predator Act requires that once an individual is determined to be an SVP, by a judge or jury, and upon completion of their prison sentence and release from CDCR, they be civilly committed for an indeterminate term in the custody of the California Department of State Hospitals (CDSH) for sex offender-specific treatment and confinement in a secure facility. The SVPA requires that SVPs have an examination of their mental condition at least once every year which shall include consideration of whether the committed person continues to meet the definition of an SVP and whether conditional release to a less restrictive alternative or an unconditional release is in the best interest of the person and conditions can be imposed that would adequately protect the community.

In the event CDSH determines that conditional or unconditional release is appropriate, a petition can be filed by CDSH with the committing court to evaluate during a hearing to determine whether the SVP fits the criteria for potential discharge. In addition, the SVPA allows the person who has been committed as an SVP to petition the court on their own for conditional or unconditional discharge, with the recommendation or concurrence of CDSH.

### Victim Notification under the SVPA

The Sexually Violent Predator Act provides for specific notifications to take place during the determination hearing for conditional or unconditional release including victim notification. However, it is important to note that the victim notification requirements within the SVPA only cite victims who have requested notice with their law enforcement or prosecuting agency. This provision can create issues for notification particularly in circumstances where offenses occurred many years ago, prior to enactment of current victim rights and notification laws.

Furthermore, the existing language within the SVPA is vague and unclear regarding the circumstances as to when and to whom notification of the conditional release and subsequent hearings is required, leading to circumstances, most notably in the case of Mr. Christopher Evans Hubbart, in which notification was provided to some jurisdictions but not others and, as a result, many victims were not properly notified.

#### **Next Steps**

The deadline for introduction of legislative proposals for the first year of the 2013-14 Legislative Session was February 22, 2013; however, this office will continue to work with the District Attorney's Office to further analyze and investigate the issues surrounding victim notification requirements within the SVPA and to identify potential legislative changes that may be necessary to clarify or change the existing notification provisions for conditional release and related hearings.

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This office will report back to the Board on any recommendations for legislative solutions that are identified in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office and will work with Board offices to gain further direction on potential legislation the Sacramento advocates can pursue during the second year of the Legislative Session in January 2014.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA MR:KA:ma

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors County Counsel District Attorney





## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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July 18, 2013

Mark Grabau, Ph.D. Forensic Services Division Department of State Hospitals 1600 Ninth Street, Suite 420 Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Dr. Grabau:

Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY Third District

DON KNABE Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

#### CONDITIONAL RELEASE OF CHRISTOPHER HUBBART COURT CASE NUMBER 140294

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutional Code Section 6608.5(d), the County of Los Angeles has designated the District Attorney's Office (DA) to provide the required consultation and assistance to the Department of State Hospital's (DSH) provider, Liberty Healthcare, who will be responsible for locating and securing housing for sexually violent predators on conditional release. Notification is requested within 48 hours of DSH learning of any sexually violent predator's petition for conditional release, unconditional discharge, or the issuance of a 6605 annual review recommending conditional release or unconditional discharge wherein Los Angeles County is identified as a potential domicile. Such notifications are to be delivered to:

Head Deputy District Attorney
Sex Crimes Division
320 West Temple Street, Room 777
Los Angeles, California 90012

With respect to the conditional release of Mr. Christopher Hubbart, Liberty Healthcare is to contact his Community Safety Committee lead representatives:

Deputy District Attorney Karen Thorp at (562) 491-6545 or (323) 217-3591 District Attorney Investigator Jose Cisneros at (213) 974-0738 or (323)226-5904

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To further ensure the safety of our communities, we request DSH to notify the Community Safety Committee lead representatives within 24 hours upon any change affecting Mr. Hubbart's conditional release and monitoring, including:

- Specialized sex offender treatment services;
- 24-hour security guard supervision; and
- Active global positioning satellite monitoring.

In addition, DSH is requested to notify the Community Safety Committee lead representatives immediately should Liberty Healthcare or the treatment provider have concerns about Mr. Hubbart's compliance with the terms of his conditional release, including the potential to relapse or abscond.

Please respond with a letter of confirmation that DSH and Liberty Healthcare are in agreement with these notification requests. Should you have any questions, please contact Georgia Mattera, Public Safety Cluster, at (213) 893-2374.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T FUNIOKA

Chief Administrative Officer

WTF:GAM:DT:IIm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors County Counsel District Attorney Sheriff Mental Health Probation

AB109.SVP Hubbart DA Designated Lead.I.071813

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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